| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chandigarh | 4469 | 3527 | 6/96 |
| D & N Haveli | 10 | 10 | 8/96 |
| Daman & Diu | 16 | 16 | 9/96 |
| Delhi | 26000 | 9710 | 10/96 |
| Lakshadweep | 24 | 2 | 11/96 |
| Pondicherry | 1077 | 72 | 11/96 |
| Total | 569196 | 197375 | |

*[English]*

**Reservation for Dalits**

1580. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister assured in November 1996 to consider the demand of the Dalits for the extension of job reservation to them in the private sector and removal of 50 per cent ceiling on the reservations; and

(b) if so, the steps so far taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) It is reported that such demands were made at a rally before the Prime Minister. It was responded that the same would be examined.

**Amarnath Yatra**

1581. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received the report of the Inquiry Committee constituted to probe the Amarnath Yatra tragedy in Kashmir in 1996;

(b) if so, the salient features of the main observations and recommendations contained therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the measures taken to avoid recurrence of such tragedies in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The entire report was laid on the Table of the Houses of Parliament on 18.12.1996.

(c) and (d) The Government have accepted the report and the State Government have been asked to take proper remedial/preparatory measures, as suggested in the report, so that there is no recurrence of the tragedy. Government of India will provide necessary assistance to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir in this regard.

**Inflated Maximum Printed Prices on Consumer Items**

1582. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the maximum prices printed on the consumer items are mostly inflated ones;

(b) whether complaints have been received by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the steps contemplated by the Government to protect the interests of the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) The standards of weights and measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 require that retail sale price of a commodity sold in packaged form be printed thereon in the following format: "Maximum or Max. retail price .....inclusive of all taxes or in the form MRP Rs .....incl., of all taxes."

MRP is the maximum price at which the product can be sold. The actual sale price could be less than MRP due to various factors.

No information regarding very large margins accruing to retailers has come to the notice of the Government. The Government is, however, considering the issue in consultation with concerned groups and organisations with a view to serve better the interests of consumers.

*[Translation]*

**Production of Sunflower**

1583. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :
SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States producing sunflower indicating its total area under cultivation in those States, State-wise;

(b) the total quantity of sunflower produced annually by these States during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the production of sunflower has marginally decreased this year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide subsidy to the farmers to increase the production of sunflower; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The major sunflower producing States are Andhra

Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. State-wise area and production of sunflower during the last three years is given in the Statement attached.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The total production of sunflower in the country during this year i.e. 1996-97 is estimated to be 13.8 lakh tonnes which is all time high production so far.

(e) and (f) In order to increase the production of sunflower including other oilseeds, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in operation in 22 States. The programme provides financial assistance by way of subsidies for various critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits, rhizobium culture, gypsum/pyrites, improved farm implements, plant protection equipments, farmer's training, sprinkler sets etc. In addition, frontline and general demonstrations are organised on farmer's field to transfer the production technology.

***Statement***

*Estimates of Area and Production of Sunflower*

A = Area ('000 ha.)
P = Production ('000 tonnes)

| S.No. | State | | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | A | 389.6 | 402.6 | 372.1 |
| | | P | 217.4 | 284.4 | 267.1 |
| 2. | Bihar | A | 5.0 | 10.7 | 8.0 |
| | | P | 2.0 | 4.7 | 4.8 |
| 3. | Haryana | A | 40.0 | 34.4 | 50.0 |
| | | P | 65.0 | 56.5 | 75.0 |
| 4. | Karnataka | A | 1469.3 | 839.5 | 1013.7 |
| | | P | 474.8 | 355.1 | 405.1 |
| 5. | Madhya Pradesh | A | 18.4 | 13.0 | 12.4 |
| | | P | 6.5 | 3.8 | 4.2 |
| 6. | Maharashtra | A | 571.5 | 510.1 | 496.3 |
| | | P | 354.1 | 280.9 | 307.2 |
| 7. | Nagaland | A | 2.5 | 1.5 | 2.5 |
| | | P | 2.0 | 0.8 | 2.5 |
| 8. | Orissa | A | 5.6 | 1.9 | 2.3 |
| | | P | 2.9 | 1.0 | 1.2 |
| 9. | Punjab | A | 85.0 | 95.0 | 103.0 |
| | | P | 146.0 | 147.0 | 159.0 |
| 10. | Rajasthan | A | 4.8 | 3.7 | 3.1 |
| | | P | 1.6 | 0.9 | 0.7 |
| 11. | Tamil Nadu | A | 39.9 | 45.0 | 56.4 |
| | | P | 33.1 | 41.7 | 52.1 |
| 12. | Uttar Pradesh | A | 35.9 | 39.5 | 37.3 |
| | | P | 42.6 | 40.7 | 45.1 |
| 13. | West Bengal | A | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| | | P | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| | All-India | A | 2667.8 | 1997.3 | 2157.5 |
| | | P | 1348.2 | 1217.8 | 1324.3 |